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Following comments on Soviet reply US aide-memoire for your guidance in official conversations:

1) Although polemical in nature tone is milder than previous note; 2) Soviets obviously attempting weaken western resolve by drumming up World War II anti-German sentiment; 3) clumsy counter accusations on self determination and weak defense of GDR social system in face of refugee problem betray Soviet vulnerability and sensitivities this point; 4) although urging negotiations Soviets merely reiterated their proposals June 6 note; 5) accusation that Allies have refused negotiate German peace settlement transparently absurd in view numerous Allied proposals over xnn years; 6) Allies always prepared negotiate German settlement taking into account legitimate interests all nations concerned; 7) pending all-German settlement, Soviets can eliminate present Berlin crisis simply by not RPT not taking any unilateral action prejudicial freedom Western Berlin and related Western Allies rights and obligations therein.

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Ball (Actw) *mm*

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Telegraphic transmission and  
transmission approved by:

EUR - William R. Tyler

S/S - *Grant*

Comments:

GER-Mr. Brandin

White House-Mr. Bromley Smith in substance

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